



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COMPUTER HACKING

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Weston, Mo., man has pleaded guilty in federal court to hacking into the AT&T computer network.

James Franklin Adams, 37, of Weston, waived his right to be charged by a grand jury and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright on Oct. 19, 2004, to a federal information that charges him with unauthorized computer intrusion.

Adams was employed as a communication technician, Graves explained, working primarily at the AT&T building at 1425 Oak Street in Kansas City. His duties included local area network (LAN) administration, which gave him complete access to the company's UNIX operating system. On April 22, 2003, **Adams** learned he would be laid off on June 20, 2003. Prior to the lay-off date, however, **Adams** filed for disability under the Federal Medical Leave Act, which precluded AT&T from laying off or terminating him. On June 20, 2003, **Adams** was placed on medical leave, but continued to draw full pay.

On June 16, 2003, **Adams'** security card key was disabled, barring **Adams** from entering the building. His personal ID account was deleted from the UNIX LAN on July 21, 2003, but security personnel mistakenly allowed **Adams** to retain his AT&T identification and neglected to eliminate **Adams'** administrator log-in to the LAN.

On July 26, 2003, **Adams** entered the AT&T building and proceeded to the mini-computer maintenance and operator's center on the 14th floor. While there, Graves said, **Adams** accessed – without authorization – a computer at his old work duty station. While logged into the AT&T computer network, **Adams** hacked into his former supervisor's personnel files, printing out several documents.

Following the discovery of **Adams'** unauthorized computer intrusion, a computer integrity audit was conduct. It cost AT&T more than \$5,000 to conduct a damage assessment of, verify the security of, and restore the integrity of the network computer system.

Under federal statutes, **Adams** could be subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000 and an order of restitution. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Valenti. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow